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PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN: FIGHTING CONTINUES IN LEBANON

NC221202Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1108 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 22 March--A Palestinian military spokesman has said that the fighting is continuing between the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces and the Zionist enemy forces in southern Lebanon and that there were fierce battles last night when the enemy attempted to advance in order to reinforce positions in the direction of Tyre despite the "alleged" cease-fire announcement.

The spokesman said that the joint forces resisted the enemy. They inflicted heavy losses of life and equipment, damaged a vehicle and forced the remaining vehicles to retreat.

In a statement broadcast by the PLO office in Doha at noon today, the spokesman said that there were clashes in the township of Kawkabah in the Al'Urqub area last night. Joint forces clashed with enemy advance groups and there were exchanges of fire. The spokesman said that groups of the Israeli enemy forces had tried to reinforce their advance to the approaches of the Al-Qulay'ah township but that the joint forces had resisted them and forced them to retreat. He said that the enemy had shelled the An-Nabatiyah area and the areas surrounding it with heavy artillery and rockets which compelled the joint forces to return the fire.

Another statement by the military spokesman says that an artillery unit of the joint forces has shelled enemy concentrations in the rear areas in the Metulla-(Sakamaqam) settlements and in the Marj 'Uyun and Tibnin areas. The spokesman said that the rockets hit their targets and fires were seen raging in many enemy positions. He added that ambulances and helicopters were also seen removing enemy casualties.

Further Report

NC221502Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1411 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--A military spokesman at the central command of the joint Palestinian and Lebanese forces has stated that the fighting between the Israeli invading forces and the joint forces continued today despite Israel's cease-fire announcement last night.

A military communique disseminated by the Palestinian news agency Wafa at noon today says that a rocket unit belonging to the joint command shelled the rear of Hanita settlement, where the enemy has a vehicle park, and that the rockets scored direct hits. This was in retaliation for the enemy's concerted shelling of the joint forces' positions.

The communique adds that the joint forces are still working actively behind the enemy's lines and that they have inflicted more losses despite the wide-scale search campaign the enemy began 3 days ago, deploying large number of troops, vehicles and helicopters. The communique says that during this campaign, the enemy suffered 40 dead and wounded, and six fedayeen were killed.

The communique adds that three groups of fedayeen attacked the enemy's positions in Bint Jubayl at dawn today and that a fierce battle ensued during which the enemy lost a number of vehicles and four dead. One of the advanced groups laid an ambush for the enemy along the At-Tayyibah-Dayr Maymas axis. It destroyed an enemy vehicle and killed a number of its members.

In the eastern sector, some groups raided the enemy's positions in Al-Khiyam, Ibil as-Saqi and Reshayya al-Fukhkhar. They destroyed an enemy 106 mm gun, killed its crew and destroyed an advanced supplies center.

The military command at the joint command had announced early today that the rocket units shelled the enemy forces' rear concentration areas in the settlements of Metulla and Misgav 'am and in Marj 'Uyun and Tibnin, that the rockets hit their targets and that fires were seen blazing in several enemy positions. Ambulances and helicopters were seen removing the enemy's casualties.

Shelling Continues

NC231112Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 23 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 23 March--A military spokesman of the General Command of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces has stated that the enemy continued intermittent shelling of the positions of the joint forces throughout last night and this morning, and that the joint forces countered by shelling the enemy positions and concentrations, inflicting more casualties.

In a statement issued by the PLO office in Doha, the spokesman said that special groups of the joint forces are still carrying out raids on rear enemy positions and supply and transportation routes, inflicting some losses on them. The joint forces last night destroyed an enemy tank in Tallat Nafidh and destroyed an enemy ambush in Tyre area east of Burj Rahhal.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE REJECTS CEASE-FIRE IN LEBANON

NC222008Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1940 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 March--Ribhi Hallum, head of the PLO office in Abu Dhabi, has affirmed that the Palestinian revolution refuses to observe a cease-fire in southern Lebanon now that the Israeli enemy has given it a historic opportunity to carry out a protracted war of attrition against him, either with Arab backing or with the resistance's indigenous capabilities.

At a press conference held here this evening, Hallum said the Palestinian revolution considers the United States a direct enemy in this war. He added that the joint Palestinian and Lebanese national forces are adopting new tactics whereby they lure the enemy into Lebanese territory and then eliminate him.

Hallum lauded the role played by the UAE in supporting the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces against the enemy. He also praised the Soviet Union's role. Concluding his press conference Hallum said that more than 100 volunteers from the UAE are now taking part in the fighting in southern Lebanon.

Criticizes Steadfast States

JN231209Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 March--Ribhi Hallum, head of the PLO office in the United Arab Emirates said that the failure of the steadfast countries to intervene in the fighting in southern Lebanon is unjustifiable. He said that the Palestinian revolution is facing a continuous plot. This requires further Arab support.

At a press conference here last night Hallum said that the Palestinian revolution rejects a cease-fire. He said that the U.S. initiative in the Security Council to send UN Emergency Forces to southern Lebanon will perpetuate Zionist aims.

Hallum said that the Lebanese Government has decided to seize the aid sent to the resistance. He said that this is a grave stand under these delicate circumstances and is considered a negative development which will affect the progress of the battle in which the blood of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples are mixed in defense of Lebanon and the Arab nation's dignity.

Lebanon Impounds Aid

JN230830Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0728 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 March--In a statement published in today's edition of AL-ITTIHAD in Abu Dhabi, PLO representative in the UAE Ribhi Hallum said that last night he received a report from the Palestinian resistance command in Beirut indicating that the Lebanese Government had decided to impound the aid sent to the Palestinian resistance.

Hallum said that Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss informed the resistance command of this decision, which provides that all aid arriving in Lebanon should be confined to the Lebanese and says that the Palestinians in Lebanon do not have the right to any share of such material or other aid and that the Palestinians should get what they want for themselves.

Hallum said that such a dangerous attitude in these delicate circumstances is considered a negative development which affects the course of the battle and creates distinction between Lebanese and Palestinians at a time when the blood of the two peoples is mixed on the soil of the battle in defense of Lebanese land and the Arab nation's dignity. It is necessary to confront this matter with clarity and frankness in accordance with the requirements of the battle.

ARAB LEAGUE SCHEDULED TO HOLD MEETING 27 MARCH

LD221554Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 Mar 78 p 6 LD

[Fatmah Barakah report]

[Excerpts] The Arab League Council will hold its 69th ordinary session on 27 March at the league headquarters in Cairo. So far four countries have declined to attend. These are Syria, Iraq, the PDRY and Algeria.

The Arab League Secretariat General has been advised by certain countries that their delegations will be headed by foreign ministers. These are Egypt, Sudan, Oman, Tunisia and Morocco. The Secretariat General has also received a request from Lebanese Charge d'Affaires in Cairo Zaydan Zaydan to consider extending the mandate of the deterrent forces in Lebanon by a further 6 months. The mandate of these forces expires on 27 April.

Sudan has submitted a memo to the Secretariat General concerning Arab solidarity in which it says that national responsibilities make it necessary to exert utmost efforts to bring about reconciliation between sisterly Arab countries. Sudan said it is confident that calm and objective dialog will restore harmony and solidarity among the sons of the Arab nation and that the present alienation between the Arab countries is a sad matter that upsets all the Arabs and their leaders.

The Sudanese memorandum also refers to the Red Sea. It says that because of its important location, as has been shown throughout history, and because it represents a strategic outlet for Israel, Israel is seeking to establish some kind of control on it, which, in one way or another, affects the countries neighboring the Red Sea and those of the Horn of Africa. Such action threatens the peace and security of these countries, and, therefore, Sudan calls on the Arab League Council to study this matter in view of the dangers threatening both the Arab and African areas and to take all the necessary steps to insure peace and security in such areas.

Among the other subjects to be discussed by the Arab League Council is a request by the PLO to discuss and evaluate U.S.-Arab relations within the agenda of the council session.

In attacking U.S. policy, the PLO says: "It is no longer a secret to anybody that Washington is waging a campaign hostile to the Palestinian people's rights." The PLO states that the United States avoids referring in any way to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative, which is recognized as such by the Palestinian people, the Arab countries and internationally. The PLO also proposes forming a ministerial committee representing three to five Arab countries in order to visit the United States and hold contacts with the government and the information media in order to explain the Arab attitude toward the Palestinian problem. The committee should submit specific requests concerning the U.S. attitude of increasing support for Israeli aggression.

The PLO sums up these requests in the following points in the military field:

To ban supplying Israel with arms and technical aid which are vital for Israeli defence.

To halt production and technical cooperation in the field of the Israeli arms industry.

In the economic field:

To stop grants and financial aid.

To withdraw privileges granted to interest rates on loans.

To refuse Israel exemptions from old debts or to allow it to postpone repayment of its debts during financial crises.

In the political field:

To stop support for Israel in international bodies.

To hold high-level and direct contacts with the PLO and to recognize it as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

To further intensify Israel's sense of isolation.

The council will also discuss the recommendations of the conference of supervisors of Palestinian affairs at its 20th session; the exchange of diplomatic representation between Portugal and Israel; a proposal to expel Israel from the International Postal Union; the fields of Arab-African cooperation; and the principles and basis of nominations for posts at the United Nations and its agencies and the nominations to fill such posts submitted by the Arab countries.

With regard to renewing the mandate of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon, Arab League Assistant Secretary General Sayyid Nawfal said the Arab League is concerned only with the financing of these forces and that Lebanon has the right to terminate or extend the presence of such forces.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH SOVIET, ALGERIAN, SAUDI AMBASSADORS

JN221320Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 March--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met individually today with the ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Algeria and Saudi Arabia in Lebanon. He also received a special envoy from Senegalese President Leopold Senghor. The Palestinian news agency reports that these meetings dealt with the current situation in Lebanon.

Message From Soviet Leaders

JN222132Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today received a message from the Soviet leaders. The nature of the contents of the message has not been disclosed. The message was conveyed by the Soviet ambassador in Beirut.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH IRAQI, AUSTRIAN AMBASSADORS

JN221856Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 22 Mar JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 March--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met this evening with Iraqi Ambassador to Lebanon Qasim as-Samawi. They reviewed the current situation and the continuation of the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. 'Arafat also met with the Austrian ambassador in Beirut and Lebanese Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman.

ABU IYAD ACCUSES ARABS OF FORSAKING PALESTINIANS

LD221621Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 21 Mar 78 p 20 LD

[Text] Beirut--By Najib Salih--Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf) told AS-SIYASAH that the Israelis are besieging Tyre and that it may fall at any moment. But this is not the end of the battle; we shall fight them wherever they may be and with all the weapons we possess. The Arabs have left us alone in the battle but this does not mean that we will lay down our arms.

Explaining to AS-SIYASAH the Israeli attack on Tyre, Khalaf said: The city has been the target of air, land and naval bombardment for 5 days. It appears that the purpose is to empty Tyre of Palestinians and of its inhabitants as well as to comb the strip alongside the borders and covering Marj 'Uyun, Hawla, Mays al-Jabal, Balida, 'Aytarun, Yarun, Rumaysh, Ayta, Rawahin and Yarin. Thus the land blockade extends from An-Naqura to 'Alma ash-Sha'b. We have strengthened our forces in As-Sarafand (35 km from Beirut), because according to our information there will be a sea landing in this area, which is 15 km from Tyre.

I told Abu Iyad: I cannot publish this statement in my newspapers because the battles may be ahead of me.

He said: We are optimistic. If we lose a battle it does not mean that we have lost everything. In the final analysis we are the ones concerned in the cause; we are the revolutionaries. If we lose anything it will be our tents. No more and no less.

Referring to the UN forces, Abu Iyad said: This is premature talk. The entry of the UN forces into southern Lebanon will not prevent us from moving. It will be the Arabs that will pay the price this time along with Israel.

He said: We in Al-'Urqub are still resisting with the courage the international press is talking about. It is not easy to defeat us because we are capable of opening more than one front--here, there and there.

I could not continue the dialog with Abu Iyad as he was on his way south.

Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said to AS-SIYASAH: Israel will not occupy Tyre so that it will not be in an internationally embarrassing position. Moreover, Tyre is standing fast.

He added: We are fighting in the south without the Arabs. They want to put us in a predicament, but we are well aware of it and are not afraid of Israel or of the Arabs. This is our fate and destiny.

He said: Israel, the United States, and certain Arab countries want us to surrender and raise our hands high in the sky simply because there are some who are afraid of Israel. But we are not afraid and we shall fight wherever we are and wherever we go.

Asked about the future of the resistance after it is expelled from southern Lebanon, he said: We shall remain in every place. Our expulsion from southern Lebanon is a conspiracy against us and this can be done only over our dead bodies. We will not be defeated easily.

Hawatimah added: There is no longer rejectionist and nonrejectionist. We are all in the same position after we have been united by the gun and by death. We are the target of an Arab and international conspiracy. The Arabs have left us to fight alone and no one supported us except with words.

The question that now remains after what has happened to the Palestinian resistance is: What comes after the war in the south? Will it stop after having reached the vicinity of Lebanese cities or will it continue in a different manner.

The future is still vague because the resistance, probably for the first time in 12 years, is in a critical situation. But the future so far seems to be in its favor and not against it.

KUWAIT

MALTESE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD211807Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Maltese Prime Minister His Excellency Dom Mintoff arrived in Kuwait at about 1830 today for an official visit. There was an official reception for him at the airport. The heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh al-'Abdullah as-Sabah, was there, as were Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn.

Received by Amir

LD221052Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] At 0930 this morning the amir of Kuwait received Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country.

Received by Prime Minister

LD221811Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah received in audience at 1100 today Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff. Talks between the two delegations began at 1130. The Kuwaiti side was headed by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah as-Sabah; the Maltese side by Dom Mintoff. The following people were present at the talks on the Kuwaiti side: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Minister of Electricity and Water Abdullah Yusuf al-Ghanim, and a number of officials from the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry and Kuwaiti Airlines; and on the Maltese side there were senior officials in the accompanying delegation.

The talks dealt with the good bilateral relations and ways of consolidating these relations in various fields, in addition to other issues of common concern. The crown prince and prime minister gave a dinner party at 1930 today in honor of the guest and delegation.

Meets With Trade Official

LD221812Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Kuwait 'Abd al-'Aziz Hamad ash-Shaqr called on Dom Mintoff this afternoon at his residence. The director of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development also visited the guest.

PRESIDENT OF DJIBOUTI ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD181037Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] The president of Djibouti, Hasan Gouled, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Kuwait about 1130 today. The amir, the heir apparent and prime minister and senior statesmen were at the airport to welcome the guest.

Departs 20 March

ID201222Z Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His highness the amir of the country was among those who saw off His Excellency Hassan Gouled, president of the Republic of Djibouti and the delegation accompanying his excellency when they left Kuwait International Airport at 1200 this afternoon.

His highness the crown prince and prime minister also saw off the high-ranking guest, together with senior state officials.

AL-WATAN COMMENTS ON EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN RAPPROCHEMENT

NC220948Z Doha QNA in Arabic 0822 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 22 March--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN says today that a long meeting was held recently between Syrian and Egyptian representatives at the United Nations as a result of the Arab efforts to bring the two countries closer together.

Quoting reliable sources, the paper says that during the meeting various military and political topics concerning the two countries were discussed and that Cairo and Damascus have blessed this effort and considered it a step forward on the road of normalizing relations. The paper points out that mediation by King Husayn of Jordan has played a prominent role in this respect, that progress has been made in this direction and that a high-level Syrian-Egyptian meeting is likely in the next few days to clear the atmosphere between the two countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID RECEIVES VISITING KUWAITI AMIR

LD211206Z Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, arrived today in the kingdom for a cordial visit to his brother King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. His majesty the king and his highness the guest have exchanged viewpoints on present Arab issues. His highness was accompanied by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti foreign minister; Shaykh Mish'al al-Ahmad and others. After having lunch with his brother King Khalid outside Riyadh, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah returned home.

FOREIGN MINISTER REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

ID222052Z Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has reaffirmed the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's absolute support for the Palestinian people and their right to return to their homeland and to regain all their rights. This was stated during his meeting today with Abid as-Za'nun, member of the Central Committee of Fatah and deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council, who was accompanied by Yasin ash-Sharif, representative of Fatah in the kingdom. The present situation in southern Lebanon was reviewed during the meeting. As-Za'nun has been on a visit to the kingdom since last Sunday.

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN JIDDA FOR MEETING

LD101434V Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj and a delegation accompanying him arrived in Jidda this afternoon to attend the meetings of the joint Saudi-YAR coordinating council which will begin in Riyadh tomorrow.

Coordination Council Meets

NC131530Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 March--The Saudi Arabian-YAR coordination council expressed its complete satisfaction at the coordination and cooperation existing between Saudi Arabia and the YAR, as well as at the continuous Saudi Arabian support to the YAR in various fields. The council agreed on new Saudi Arabian support to the YAR in the fields of education, health, communication and construction of various kinds, including roads and mosques.

RIYADH: ISRAELI AGGRESSION WILL PERPETUATE RESISTANCE

LDL71450Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

['Abd ar-Rahman 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Hazza' commentary]

[Text] For the third consecutive day in the peaceful villages in southern Lebanon, the civilian inhabitants continue to live in a state of fear because of the barbarous raids by the forces of the Israeli enemy on their territories. What makes the suffering more agonizing is that these civilians have nothing to do at all with what is happening and that they are victims of Zionist plans which do not discriminate between civilians and military and which are not worried about the ways of achieving their goal.

The Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon cannot possibly be interpreted other than as another step within the framework of the expansionist schemes of the Zionist entity. Everyone is aware that Israel has ambitions about the Litani River, ambitions which are known and declared. It was awaiting the opportunity to achieve such ambitions at any price. In addition to the expansionist aims which Israel is seeking to achieve in southern Lebanon, there is a plan to exterminate the Palestinian people through this aggression. These plans are doomed to failure in advance. Modern history records no mention of a people being defeated while fighting for their usurped national rights; although they had sustained certain losses, this would be an incentive for them to continue the efforts and struggle and offer more sacrifices.

Brethren: The Zionist enemy justified his invasion of southern Lebanon by saying that it is aimed at what he called "arrangements that would guarantee that the area will not become once more a base for the Palestinian fedayeen." These justifications which motivated his aggression makes his condemnation inevitable.

The fact that the Palestinian people are sacrificing a number of their sons does not mean the annihilation of the Palestinian issue or the Palestinian existence. These issues have been fixed to Arab thinking and the Arab conscience and will remain the voice which calls for a just solution to the Palestinian issue acceptable to the entire Arab nation.

When the leaders of Zion escalate their operations in southern Lebanon, killing innocent citizens, they are pulling the pin from the bomb which will explode, declaring an all-out war in the Middle East from which no one will escape. Moreover, they are exposing the true face of the so-called Israeli peace--peace based on treachery and aggression, peace based on the occupation of the territories of others by force and mass annihilation of the innocent inhabitants in this region. These despicable actions are considered an extension and continuation of the massacre of Dayr Yassin by the Zionist entity. But were they committed by the Arab nation? No.

The Arab nation now possesses all the means to reply to any treacherous aggression on any part of its land. Israel cannot now commit aggression and leave without meeting the fiercest resistance. This has compelled the enemy's war minister to say that his army was not going for a picnic into southern Lebanon.

In the struggle which it is now waging, the Palestinian resistance is enjoying all Arab and world backing and support, while international pressure is intensifying on Israel, demanding that it withdraw its forces which have violated the peaceful borders of fraternal Lebanon. Even the United States had called for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. It also urged for the adoption of security arrangements in the area.

The Palestinian resistance will continue to wage the battle and struggle in accordance with its duty toward its cause and people. It will prove that the Zionist war of annihilation will not achieve its aims, regardless of how many sophisticated weapons have been amassed for it.

According to information from the battlefield, losses have been inflicted on the enemy in men and equipment. The reports also confirm that any Israeli aggression will be nothing but a part of a vicious circle that would lead Israel to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people and their rights to the restoration of their homeland and the establishment of their own state. [sentence as heard]

RIYADH: ARABS MUST UNITE TO FOIL ZIONIST DEMANDS

LD201316Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] When the Arabs unified their positions and rallied together in 1973, they succeeded in defeating Israel and [words indistinct]. By rallying together, the Arabs spared bloodshed and frustrated the Zionist enemy designs in Lebanon and restored to the fraternal people their unity. Things would have returned to normal had it not been for the sedition makers, backed by Israel, who did not like this and thus worked against these efforts and created the so-called southern Lebanese problem.

Only through Arab cohesion is it possible to frustrate the Zionist designs, which at present are directed against the sovereignty of the fraternal Arab country, Lebanon, and the annihilation of the Palestinian Arab people and are designed to silence them forever, leaving the Arab arena open for Israel to carry out its long-term aims in the area. His majesty the king's approval of the proposal for the holding of an Arab summit conference is prompted by fraternal duty for the adoption of a unified Arab stand which would put an end to the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon and stop the mass annihilation of two Arab peoples: the Lebanese and the Palestinians.

The Saudi Kingdom's approval of the holding of an Arab summit conference in the present conditions proves the concern of the leaders of this country to safeguard the security and safety of all Arab territory. Since the fraternal Lebanese people were subjected to aggression, officials in the kingdom have been closely watching the development of the situation and have been doing all they can to check the fighting immediately and secure the withdrawal of Israel from Lebanese territory.

As it faces this new Zionist challenge, the Arab nation is called upon to return to Arab solidarity and to forget peripheral differences, thus putting Arab interests above all self-interest or benefits. Without such solidarity and the adoption of unanimous decisions to face the Zionist challenge, Israel will consolidate its design in southern Lebanon and will be tempted by its victory, in the absence of Arab unity, to direct its expansionist designs in the future against another Arab country or even other Arab countries.

The Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon is not a mere military operation in retaliation for a fedayeen operation, as claimed by Israel. It is in implementation of a plan drawn up by the enemy authorities long ago which remained secret until the opportunity materialized in the atmosphere of inter-Arab division.

Hence, to foil this frightful design, the Arabs must rally together and unite so that they stand together in one rank against the treacherous Israeli aggression and are guided by the knowledge that it is best to work together.

'UKAZ: ISRAELIS AIM TO EXTERMINATE RESISTANCE

LD201735Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arab's 19 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] The statements of Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Mordekhai Gur that the aim of the Israeli military operation in southern Lebanon are not only to harass the Palestinian resistance in this area but also to harass it in all other places. In other words the clear objective is to exterminate the Palestinian resistance, the vanguard of the struggling Palestinian people. With such a declaration Israel not only reveals its brutality, barbarism and racism but also its indifference to all values and to the world conscience even at a time when the world organization is meeting to discuss a solution for this aggression in southern Lebanon.

With this declaration which came while the United Nations was searching for a solution and just before Prime Minister Menahem Begin's departure for the United States for talks with President Carter, Israel indicates that it is far from desiring to live in peace and that it insists on denying the rights of the Palestinian people, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

With this clear-cut situation Israel is clearly seeking to maintain tension in the area and to add new occupied territories to those in Sinai, Gaza, the West Bank and the Golan. Whatever the world's reaction to Israeli attempts is going to be--whether by the United States or the Soviet Union--the problem remains primarily Arab and can be solved only with a comprehensive Arab stand that will reconsider the strategy of joint Arab action in the face of this blatant aggression against the Palestinian resistance which, at the same time, is an aggression against the Arab nation.

The Arab nation is requested today more than ever before to forget its differences in order to devote itself to repelling this new danger and to discuss the situation seriously and firmly. Israel achieves new gains only when the Arabs are divided, for side conflicts benefit only the Israeli enemy.

Israel has clearly revealed its policy: It wants Arab land. It has also shown its indifference to all human values and to the principles of the UN Charter. The question that remains to be asked is: What are the Arabs going to do to prevent the Israeli danger from going beyond the Lebanese territory to other Arab territories that might be added to Arab losses?

The Arab nation today is called upon to adopt an objective stand to determine the course of Arab action in these decisive circumstances.

UAE

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN CALLS FOR ARAB CONFERENCE

JN211655Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1450 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 March--Tarim 'Imran Tarim, chairman of the UAE Federal Council, has said that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan's approval of convening an Arab summit conference stems from a free Arab conscience which believes in the Arab cause and its justice.

This was part of a speech he delivered today before the Federal Council in which he appealed to Shaykh Zayid to devote all his good offices as well as his personal contacts to insure the participation of all Arab leaders in an Arab summit conference to be held as soon as possible in order to stop the process of liquidation to which the Palestinian resistance is exposed in Lebanon.

Tarim 'Imran Tarim added: From here, from the throbbing hearts of our Arab people in the United Arab Emirates, we say that our people under our president and leader His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan will always stand by the side of the people of Palestine and their organization, since it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians with all their potentials.

UAE, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT COORDINATING STANDS

JN221458Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1325 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 March--It was reported here today that the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are currently coordinating their stands toward the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon as well as the Arab position which should be adopted to cope with this invasion.

The newspaper SAWT AL-UMMAH, published in Abu Dhabi, reports today that UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan will have talks with His Majesty King Khalid of Saudi Arabia during the visit which President Zayid will make to Saudi Arabia beginning tomorrow. The talks will deal with the process of coordination between the two countries--a process which started earlier.

It will be recalled that Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah yesterday paid a several-hour visit to Saudi Arabia, during which he met with the Saudi monarch for the same purpose of coordination.

PRESIDENT ZAYID LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA

JN230900Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0806 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 23 March--JAE President His Highness Shayk Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan this morning left Abu Dhabi for Riyadh for a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. The QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi has learned that the talks which President Zayid will have with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia will take place outside the capital of Riyadh. The talks will deal with several important issues, including coordination between the two countries in particular and the Arab Gulf states in general in the political, security and oil fields with the aim of reaching a common gulf state view in this connection.

The QNA correspondent has also learned that the talks will deal with the impact of the drop of the dollar on the oil revenues in order to reach a solution preserving the value of the revenues of the oil-producing states. The QNA correspondent has also learned that the talks between the two Arab leaders will deal in addition with the current Arab situation in light of the developments in the Arab area, the possibility of restoring Arab solidarity, and the possibility of formulating a unified Arab position to cope with the dangers facing the Arab nation. They will also discuss the means to strengthen the relations of cooperation between the two countries in all fields as well as several bilateral questions of joint interest.

INA Reports President's Visit

JN230901Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 March--JAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today left Abu Dhabi on a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia described as private. Shaykh Zayid is accompanied on this visit by a delegation consisting of Governor of Fujairah Shaykh Hamad ibn Muhammad ash-Sharqi, the interior minister, the foreign affairs minister, the minister of petroleum and natural resources and a number of officials.

MINISTER MEETS SYRIAN, IRAQI, TUNISIAN AMBASSADORS

JN211704Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 March--JAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah met here today with the Syrian, Iraqi and Tunisian ambassadors to the United Arab Emirates. During the three meetings, talks were held on the current Arab situation, the developments in southern Lebanon and bilateral relations.

MALTESE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

NC200810Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 20 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 March--Maltese Prime Minister Dominic Mintoff arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a 2-day official visit to the UAE.

During his visit, the Maltese prime minister will have talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Prime Minister Shaykh Maktum ibn Rashid al-Maktum on strengthening cooperation between the two countries and the prospects of the UAE's participation in a number of projects in Malta.

YEMEN--PDY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD RECEIVES SOVIET ENVOY

LD221554Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau of the National Front and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has received (Menanim Bogov), Soviet charge d'affaires in Aden, and reviewed with him a number of issues of common interest. The two officials examined the latest developments in the Middle East region in the light of the current aggression perpetrated by the Zionist enemy against the Lebanese and Palestinian people in southern Lebanon.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad emphasized that in view of the current situation in the Middle East region, the USSR, the socialist countries and all freedom and peace-loving forces in the world should continue to support the just struggle of the Arab peoples and the Palestinian people against the repeated Zionist provocations [words indistinct].

The comrade Soviet charge d'affaires affirmed the stand of the Soviet Government against the Zionist aggression and its solidarity with the Arab peoples, the Lebanese people and the Palestinian revolution.

UPONF-CPSU ACCORD SIGNED ON PARTY COOPERATION

LD151604Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] A protocol for party cooperation was signed this afternoon between the United Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] and the CPSU for 1978-1979 in the area of party experience exchanges and the training and qualifying of party cadres.

Brother Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, member of the Central Committee and minister of industry and acting minister of planning signed the protocol on behalf of the Yemeni side, while Comrade Yevgeniy (Tsedenkov), member of the Central Committee and director of the Department of Publicity and Information of the CPSU Central Committee signed for the CPSU.

After the signing ceremony brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali expressed the appreciation of the UPONF and the government of the revolution for the comradely cooperation and assistance afforded them by the CPSU and the friendly Soviet people. The protocol signed today will make possible the future expansion of the scope of cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries.

Comrade (Tsedenkov) expressed his confidence that the signing of the protocol would help develop and expand relations between the two parties and peoples. He also expressed pleasure over his visit to our country and the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. He said the visit had afforded him and the delegation accompanying him the opportunity of seeing the great achievements made by the workers and the toiling masses of our people. He expressed satisfaction at the meetings he and the delegation accompanying him had with the brother leaders of the revolution.

The signing ceremony was attended by brother Salim Salih, member of the Central Committee and foreign relations secretary at the Central Committee Secretariat.

YEMEN--YAR

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN APPOINTS MILITARY OFFICIALS

JN182133Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Decree of the commander in chief of the armed forces No [figure indistinct], 1978, appointing deputy chief of staff for military affairs:

In the name of the people, the Command Council chairman and the commander in chief of the armed forces: Taking cognizance of the Command Council Statement No 1 of 1974 and of the constitutional announcement of the Command Council No 33 of 1974, in accordance with the Officers Service Law No 16 for 1975, in accordance with the Officers Committee statement, and after the approval of the Command Council [?I decree]:

Article 1. Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz Lutfi (?al-Barati) shall be appointed deputy chief of staff for military affairs.

Article 2. This decree will be effective as of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette and the military publications.

This decree was issued at the general command of the armed forces on 9/4/1398 of the Hejira, corresponding to 18 March 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and the commander in chief of the armed forces.

Naval Forces Commander Appointed

JN182135Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Decree of the commander in chief of the armed forces No 4 for 1978 appointing commander of the naval forces:

In the name of the people, the chairman of the Command Council and the commander in chief of the armed forces: Taking cognizance of the Command Council Statement No 1 of 1974 and of the constitutional announcement of the Command Council No 33 of 1974, in accordance with the Officers Service Law No 16 for 1975, in accordance with the statement of the Officers Committee, and after the approval of the Command Council, I decree:

Article 1. Lt Col Lutfi Ahmad 'Abdallah (?Sunnayn) shall be commander of the naval forces.

Article 2. This decree will be effective as of the date of its issuance.

This decree was issued at the general command of the armed forces on 9/4/1398 of the Hejira, corresponding to 18 March 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, YAR Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces

CABINET ISSUES STATEMENT ON ISRAELI ATTACK

NC222138Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--The cabinet has called on the states of the world to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory immediately and unconditionally and to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. In a statement issued this evening on recent events in southern Lebanon, the cabinet denounced Israel's attempts to put conditions on implementing the Security Council resolution calling for immediate withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The cabinet called on the Security Council to act in order to insure that its resolution is implemented and that the Israeli forces withdraw immediately from southern Lebanon.

The following is the text of the cabinet statement, which was read by Minister of Information and Culture 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi:

The cabinet, meeting for the first time following the regrettable incidents in Lebanon, denounces the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and against the innocent sons of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. The cabinet also denounces Israel's rejection of and attempts to put conditions on implementing the Security Council resolution calling for immediate withdrawal from Lebanese territory. The cabinet also calls on the Security Council to act in order to insure that its resolution is implemented and that the Israeli forces withdraw immediately from southern Lebanon.

If Israel is trying to exploit the situation to repair its deteriorating position before the world by attempting to put conditions on its withdrawal, the application of the rules of international justice and compliance with the verdict of the law cannot become subject to the conditions of an aggressive party using armed force against innocent people.

The cabinet appeals to world circles to act in accordance with their international responsibility for security and justice and in compliance with the verdict of the law. It also greets the struggle of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in the face of this armed aggression.

The cabinet wishes to explain an irrefutable fact concerning the Arab arena: The only way to provide security for all states in the Middle East is to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of the long and bloody disputes in the area on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Egypt has shouldered its historic responsibility through the peace initiative of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. Israel has tried to place obstacles in the way of this initiative. The recent events have proved that Israel is wrong in obstructing the humanitarian, ethical and legal initiative of the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which has been welcomed by all who are unspiteful, untendentious and unprejudiced. It is time for the world to realize its responsibilities to establish peace and justice and to persuade Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory unconditionally and immediately and to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people so that justice may replace these bloody conflicts which have exposed the Middle East states to danger and have impeded productive and effective work leading to world peace and security.

GHALI SAYS NO DIRECT DIALOG UNDERWAY WITH ISRAEL

NC231038Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1005 GMT 23 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today affirmed that no direct dialog is presently underway with Israel. He also affirmed that this dialog will not be resumed unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories. Dr Ghali made this statement during his 2-day visit to Sri Lanka, which began yesterday.

In his statement, Dr Ghali emphasized that it is imperative for Israel to agree to grant the Palestinians the right to determine their own fate. The Egyptian minister also pointed to the latest Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, saying: This aggression represents a new obstacle on the road to the achievement of peace in the area. The latest attack launched by the Palestinian fedayeen against Israel is regarded as further proof that it is impossible to achieve peace in the Middle East so long as the Palestinian problem is not solved.

Concerning President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that President as-Sadat had taken this step in an attempt to shorten the road to peace and that he had been prepared to go anywhere in the world to fulfill this objective.

PRESS SEES U.S. OPPOSITION TO BEGIN'S POLICIES

NC230935Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0607 GMT 23 Mar 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The Cairo newspapers report the U.S. Congress warning to Begin that the settlements mean an erosion in U.S. support for Israel. On this topic, AL-AKHBAR says: Menahem Begin has refused to describe his discussions with President Carter as encouraging. Answering newsmen's questions, Begin frenziedly said: I do not want to assign adjectives to these discussions.

The newspaper then notes the consensus of news agencies that the Carter-Begin meeting was stormy, that it was the most difficult meeting ever held between a U.S. President and an Israeli prime minister and that President Carter opposed the plan Begin had carried to Washington. Begin took his own ideas to Washington as well as a description of the situation in southern Lebanon and of his plans for withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, thus trying to make these topics the main subject of the talks in Washington. However, President Carter took the initiative, or, as the news agencies say, he dictated the manner in which the discussions were to be held. President Carter immediately began discussing the main obstacles to peace: Begin's attitude toward Security Council Resolution 242 concerning withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and his insistence on the legitimacy of the settlements established in the occupied Arab territories.

Begin emerged from this violent session only to be faced by a more violent 4-hour clash with the members of the U.S. congressional International Relations committees. They bombarded Begin with questions until the leader of the Democratic majority intervened to save him from the committee members and alleviate his shock. Furthermore, according to the Washington POST, President Carter summoned a number of U.S. Congress leaders and asked them to openly support the airplane deal with Egypt and Saudi Arabia--a deal which Menahem Begin opposes.

AL-AKHBAR believes that this request by President Carter--during Begin's visit to Washington--is a firm rebuff to Begin's thoughts, a refutation of his allegations and obdurate stands through which he has removed himself from the path of peace.

The newspaper adds that the final meeting between President Carter and Begin, which was held last night, was not [words indistinct] the storm of acute differences. At this meeting, Begin tried to present the plans he had prepared about his theatrical moves in southern Lebanon. But the U.S. President was not ready to support these moves, and his sole request was Israel's immediate withdrawal.

AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that Begin was quite disappointed at this reaction to all that he had prepared in order to convert the cause of peace into a bargaining chip through which he would enter into endless labyrinths.

If the shock he received from the U.S. President disappointed Begin, his meeting with the congressional members shattered his hopes and dissipated them into thin air because this meeting proved that the U.S. President's attitude toward a Middle East settlement is largely supported by the U.S. Congress. Thus, Begin now faces a solid wall which he cannot penetrate to tamper with the cause of peace.

AL-AKHBAR says: This is Washington's position toward Begin, and this is the state of affairs with which he will return from his discussions in Washington. However, the classic question remains: What will happen after all these things?

Begin now faces a strong and devastating wind. He will either retain his illusions and his diehard attitude, and thus collapse, or he will bow in respect for right and justice and pursue the path of peace. However, we believe that this man will not be able to change his character, that he will continue to adhere to his illusions and that he will make Israel live in accordance with the logic of the Dayr Yasin massacre. But will he be able to (keep what he has gained)? The British newspaper GUARDIAN has frankly answered this question by saying: Even a temporary improvement in the Middle East is impossible as long as Begin remains in power in Israel.

AL-AHRAM also comments on the same topic. Under the headline "A Test of Strength in Washington," it says: The discussions between Carter and Begin began amid predictions that there were basic differences in the U.S. and Israeli positions and that the U.S. Government would be compelled to inform Begin of the realities of the situation in total frankness.

AL-AHRAM points out that this meeting was preceded by speculations that an attempt had been made to justify in advance Israel's rigid and arbitrary position in light of the new arguments which Begin would use when the talks turned to Israel's devious interpretation of Resolution 242. However, it is obvious that these same arguments, seen from the other side, corroborate the fact that there are prevarications and grievous dangers for the prospects of peace in the Israeli stand.

If we admit that the unusual situation which has emerged in southern Lebanon as the result of the latest Israeli aggression has increased the threat to peace efforts, it is also imperative for us to admit that this situation has increased the need for a decisive U.S. stand.

AL-AHRAM believes that Begin's talks in Washington constitute a test of strength between U.S. policy--(which has developed into) a process in which matters become more complicated with every delay, hesitation or retraction from its basic components--and an Israeli stand which is becoming more cunning, evasive and conspiratorial against the peace efforts. The situation will not benefit from a gloomy atmosphere prevailing at the Washington talks, though it would benefit if the test of strength between the two sides results in a mature and committed U.S. stand.

AL-AHRAM CALLS FOR ARAB SUMMIT, JOINT COMMAND

JN230820Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 23 March--AL-AHRAM today calls upon the heads of state of Libya, Syria, Algeria and Iraq to board one plane and proceed to Cairo to hold an emergency working session with President Anwar as-Sadat because they have failed to do anything and because he is more capable of making decisions to deal with difficult circumstances. In an article by Zakariya Nil, the paper says this will make the task of the summit conference to adopt decisions easy and it will lead to the occurrence [as received] of complications at the conference.

In his article, the writer proposes that the four heads of state, Al-Qadhafi, Al-Asad, Al-Bakr and Boumediene, come to Cairo to work with President as-Sadat and address together an urgent appeal, or a quick invitation, to the other Arab leaders with a view to defining the situation in full in deeds, behavior and actual practice.

The writer stresses that the definition of the situation after what has happened in Lebanon calls upon all the Arab leaders to abandon their poetic identities [hwiya'tiha al-qasa'idiah] and to concentrate on the sacred affiliation to the homeland.

The writer says in his article that the meeting of the Arab leaders requires planning in three stages, each of them complementing the other. The first stage is to fix a timetable for the peace efforts being made in order to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis and the issue of the dispute between the Arabs and Israel. The writer fixes the end of September 1978, when the UN General Assembly session begins, as the end of this stage.

Speaking about the second stage, the writer says that this stage is the responsibility of the Security Council, which issued Resolutions 242 and 338, particularly if Begin continues his arrogant stand vis-a-vis the peace efforts, thereby persuading the international community that the extremist regime in Israel is obstructing peace in the area. The writer explains that in this case, the Security Council should assume its practical responsibilities by implementing its resolutions.

The third stage, the writer says, is the responsibility of a joint Arab command, to be formed upon the instructions of the leaders at an Arab summit. The commanders of this front should be professional military experts with patriotic and pan-Arab commitment and known for not being affiliated with parties or front organizations.

The writer adds: The task of this command should begin at the time when the peace efforts are taking place. The command's task should be military preparation, and the command should be given all powers to issue and implement military orders in any part of the Arab homeland.

Concluding his article, the writer says: The success of such a plan requires several conditions, the most important of which is that each Arab leader should open his file and disclose his military, manpower, material and technical capabilities. In this case, the future of joint Arab action can be judged in advance as being able to achieve our national goals.

AS-SADAT MAKES APPEAL TO SAVE BHUTTO'S LIFE

NC221523Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1446 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has addressed an urgent appeal to Pakistani President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry to save the life of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and reconsider the death sentence issued against him last Saturday. This appeal came in a letter President Anwar as-Sadat sent to the Pakistani president. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz handed the message to the Pakistani ambassador in Cairo.

FOREIGN MINISTER CONFERS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC221419Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Hermann Eilts, and discussed the latest developments of the situation in southern Lebanon and the latest developments of the Middle East crisis. This meeting is part of the continuous contacts which are being held between Egypt and the United States regarding the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the efforts which are being currently exerted to find a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East crisis.

AL-AHRAM CRITICIZES SYRIAN STAND IN LEBANON

LD172215Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Mar 78 pp 1, 9 LD

[Chief editor 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal article: "The Red Line Prisoners"]

[Text] After the Tel Aviv incident the whole world was certain that Israel would launch a retaliatory operation. There was no need to discuss or draw conclusions as to where the operation was to take place. It was clear to everybody that it would be in southern Lebanon.

Syria remained silent and did not make a move. Only yesterday they remembered and woke up, and we wish they did not. After the Israeli forces invaded southern Lebanon in a manner indicating their intention to occupy it and remain there, the Syrian Ba'th Party came out to declare that Syria has decided to play at the disposal of the "Syrian" deterrent forces some antiaircraft batteries to be used against Israeli attacks on civilian population centers.

Is this what is required from the Syrian forces occupying Lebanon? Does the Ba'thist government expect Israel to strike only at civilian population centers?

Syria occupied Lebanon militarily under the pretext of defending the Palestinian forces against the Lebanese forces hostile to them. Israel's reaction to this occupation was to draw up an imaginary line, which it called the red line, and force Syria not to go beyond it, or otherwise it would come under the cross fire of the Israeli forces. The Syrian Ba'thist government has fully complied with this condition, and despite all that has happened to the resistance in southern Lebanon, the Syrian forces have not dared to cross the red line. In fact, Syria swerved from this line and proceeded to Tall az-Za'tar to take part in the liquidation of the Palestinian camps.

We now see the Israeli army that entered southern Lebanon declare its intention to liquidate the Palestinian resistance. Syria has not moved and has taken no action to realize the objective for which it entered Lebanon. Is the Syrian presence on Lebanese territory restricted to defending the Palestinians against the Lebanese forces hostile to them, as they made the Palestinians believe, or is it in order to take part in liquidating them, whether on the side of the Lebanese forces or the Israeli army?

The strange thing is that the Soviet Union rushed to the help of its Ba'thist agents and involved itself in the events in order to cover up the position of the Damascus ruler. TASS said that the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon took place in agreement between Washington and Cairo, and as evidence it pointed to Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's presence in Washington on the eve of the attack.

Is there anything more ridiculous than this? Can the Soviet Union be so naive?

The current events in Lebanon clearly reveal the role the Syrian Ba'th Party under Hafiz al-Asad's leadership is playing in Lebanon and the intentions behind it. Certainly it is a role that the Palestinian leadership is well aware of, but unfortunately this leadership has been unable to act and to differentiate between its friends and foes.

Now Egypt, despite all the provocations against it by some of the Palestinian leaders, is assuming its national responsibility toward the Palestinian revolution in order to save it not only from Israel but also from all the forces hostile to it, the forces that falsely and deceptively pretend to be its friends.

ANSA CITES SOURCES ON AS-SADAT-PONOMAROV MEETING

AU220904Y Rome ANSA in English 0845 GMT 22 Mar 78 AU

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 22 (ANSA)--Usually reliable Arab League sources continue to insist that a high-ranking Soviet envoy recently had talks with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and the Saudi Arabian ambassador here on a proposal to barter partial Soviet disengagement in eastern Africa against a greater Soviet contribution to the search for a Middle Eastern peace settlement.

The sources identified the Soviet representative as Politburo member Boris Ponomarev, who is in charge of relations with communist and socialist parties outside the Soviet bloc, claiming he met As-Sadat a few days ago at Ismailia.

MAGAZINE SAYS TERRORIST 'CARLOS' VISITED IRAQ

NC222155Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 2105 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--An Egyptian magazine reported today that the notorious world terrorist "Carlos" met with a Palestinian guerrilla leader in Iraq a short time before the assassination of Egyptian editor Yusuf as-Siba'i in Nicosia on 18 February. The periodical AKHIR SA'AH said that Carlos, whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, held several meetings with Abu Nidal, leader of a Palestinian splinter group, which has reportedly received orders to liquidate a number of Palestinian and Arab personalities. The magazine said that Carlos entered Iraq with a forged French passport and left Baghdad after a week for an undisclosed European capital.

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN222059Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Octavio Malmierca arrived here tonight on a 4-day visit to Iraq.

The Cuban official, who is accompanied by an official delegation, stated that he will discuss with Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi the various current international issues and will exchange with him views on the means to coordinate the stands and activities between the two countries within the movement of the nonaligned countries.

The Cuban foreign minister expressed his hope that his visit will contribute to further consolidating the relations between the two friendly countries.

Official Talks Begin

JN231103Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--Official talks began here today between the Iraqi side, headed by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, and the Cuban side, headed by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. The two sides reviewed the good relations between Iraq and Cuba and issues pertaining to the nonaligned bloc, including the definition of stands in the meetings the nonaligned countries will hold in Kabul, Belgrade and Havana. Views were in agreement on these issues.

MINUTES OF IRAQI-HUNGARIAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS SIGNED

JN221355Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--Iraqi Irrigation Minister 'Abd al-Wahab Mahmud and Istvan Gergely, chairman of the Hungarian National Bureau of Water Conservation, signed here this evening the minutes of the meetings of the Iraqi-Hungarian joint committee for water administration following meetings which lasted 2 days.

The minutes include a program for cooperation in the field of water administration between the Iraqi Irrigation Ministry and the Hungarian National Bureau of Water Conservation. The minutes also include a program for the exchange of expertise in the field of maintenance of dams and irrigation and drainage projects.

The minutes also include a call for the Hungarian side to participate in studies conducted on irrigation projects being implemented by Iraq. The minutes will remain in effect until the end of 1979.

Hungarian Official Leaves

JN230907Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--Istvan Gergely, minister of state and chairman of the Hungarian National Bureau of Water Conservation, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this morning after a 2-day visit to Iraq. Gergely held talks with officials of the Irrigation Ministry on the means to strengthen cooperation in the fields of irrigation and drainage and on Hungary's contribution to implementing a number of irrigation projects in Iraq.

BAGHDAD REPORTS ON IRAQI-MONGOLIAN TALKS

JN221559Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Iraqi-Mongolian talks began at the Foreign Ministry today to exchange views on issues of mutual interest. The Iraqi side was led by 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Mongolian side was led by (Bandzar), assistant minister of foreign affairs.

The talks during the meeting revolved around the means to develop and consolidate bilateral relations to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

The Mongolian delegation will continue its contacts with Iraqi officials during its stay in Baghdad.

INTERIOR MINISTER RECEIVES IRANIAN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

JN231113Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council member and interior minister, met this morning with (Abdallah) Riazzi, president of the Iranian National Consultative Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the developing relations of cooperation and friendship between Iraq and Iran for the benefit of the peoples in the two countries. This development emphasizes the strong ties linking them. Riazzi arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a visit of several days to Iraq.

AL-BAKR RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM JORDAN'S HUSAYN

JN221632Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has received a message from His Majesty King Husayn, king of Jordan, dealing with the current Arab situation. The message was conveyed to the president by King Husayn's personal envoy, Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, when he was received here today by the president.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, member of the Revolution Command Council and interior minister, and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Jordanian Envoy Leaves

JN222106Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--Sulayman 'Arar, Jordanian interior minister and King Husayn's envoy to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, left Baghdad tonight following a brief visit to Iraq.

The Jordanian envoy stated that he had conveyed a message to President al-Bakr from King Husayn dealing with the Arab and international situation.

The Jordanian envoy was seen off by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan, a number of officials and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

HUSAYN TO PAY PRIVATE VISIT TO IRAN 23 MARCH

JN221212Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] An official source in the Royal Hashemite Court has stated that His Majesty King Husayn will pay a private visit of several days to Iran beginning on Thursday, 23 March. He will meet with His Majesty Shah of Iran Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

INTERIOR MINISTER RETURNS FROM BAGHDAD VISIT

JN230559Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Sulayman 'Arar, interior minister and His Majesty King Husayn's envoy, returned to Amman from Baghdad last night after delivering a message to Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from His Majesty King Husayn on the latter's call for convening an Arab summit conference to confront the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon.

AL-AKHBAR COMMENTS ON CARTER-BEGIN TALKS

JN230730Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says: After the series of setbacks which the peace efforts suffered following President as-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem, activities of the various committees were suspended until the results of the visit to the United States by the Israeli prime minister were known.

Political observers thus awaited this visit impatiently. Begin postponed the visit for a week to invade Lebanon. Israel invaded Lebanon. The meaning of this was clear. The time when Israel used to appear before the United States as an oasis of democracy which was concerned about civilization and which needed guarantees to survive is--as Begin said--gone. He said that Israel no longer needs guarantees from anyone and does not need recognition by anyone. Begin said Israel is strong enough to deal with any Arab attempt to occupy it.

This is the new picture of Israel which Menahem Begin wanted to draw and to make clear to the Americans. When he realized that his logic was not understandable in the White House, Begin ended his talks with the U.S. President with a clear and brief sentence, "Peace is difficult to achieve." Although this sentence was spoken to the U.S. officials hosting the Israeli prime minister, it is in fact addressed to us. If Begin meant by his sentence that a peace based on withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory is difficult to achieve, it is our duty too to announce that a peace based on relinquishing our right to our occupied land is also difficult to achieve.

AR-RA'Y FEARS JORDAN WILL BE NEXT ISRAELI TARGET

JN190651Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 19 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's commentary AR-RA'Y says: Husayn's call 2 days ago for an urgent meeting at the highest level of Arab leadership came at the proper time. It came before the situation in Lebanon is resolved in accordance with Israeli wishes and before the action turns to Jordan at a time when the Arab situation is still at its worst.

Israel realizes that Jordan is the country of the cause. That is why it is preparing from now to broaden its aggression in a clear attempt to change the factors of the Middle East crisis and to reshuffle the cards so that Israel may rid itself of the Palestinian question by liquidating the issue at Jordan's expense. If after the fighting in southern Lebanon is over Israel feels itself free for another confrontation with the Arabs, then we say that Jordan will be the only Israeli target in the coming phase. That is why King Husayn stressed placing all Arab resources, energies and oil in the service of the Arab cause and in defense of the dignity and survival of the Arabs by means of unified and organized Arab action and goals.

FORCES REPORTEDLY PLACED ON MAXIMUM ALERT

JN230748Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 23 March--The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB today cites well-informed Arab sources as saying that Jordan placed its forces on maximum alert the second day of the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon to back the Syrian Army should it intervene to support the joint forces in southern Lebanon.

These sources confirmed to the newspaper that Jordan was prepared to protect the northern front and to prevent the enemy from outflanking the Syrian front adjacent to the Jordanian borders, as Jordan had done during the October 1973 war.

These sources told AL-'ARAB that the meeting Jordanian King Husayn held at the Jordanian Military Command on the second day of the battles discussed all the developments in the military situation and the possibilities of escalating the battles and the outbreak of a fifth war in the Middle East.

INDUSTRY MINISTER RECEIVES ROMANIAN COUNTERPART

JN201157Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 20 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 20 March--Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, yesterday received the Romanian industry minister accompanied by the deputy minister of petrochemicals and the director general of the Romanian company implementing the project of expanding the Jordanian petroleum refinery.

Dr ad-Dajani stated that he discussed with the Romanian side the work on the expansion project and the possibility of implementing it this summer. He said that the Romanian Government attaches extreme importance to implementing this project, particularly since it is the biggest project being implemented by Romania in Jordan on the instructions of the Romanian president with the aim of consolidating economic relations between the two friendly countries. He added that the Romanian side will submit a report to the Jordanian Government on the work on the project.

The Romanian industry minister left Amman yesterday afternoon following a 3-day visit to Jordan.

MINISTER BUTRUS RECEIVES U.S., SAUDI AMBASSADORS

NC221258Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus today continued his diplomatic consultations regarding the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

At 1000 today Minister Butrus met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Parker for an hour. After the meeting the U.S. ambassador said that the discussions dealt with the situation in light of the UN Security Council resolution and with methods of implementing the resolution with regard to the UN forces in the south. Asked when the UN forces will arrive in Lebanon, Ambassador Parker said: I believe that some of them will arrive today. Asked if the withdrawal of the Israeli forces will be delayed until after the arrival of the UN forces, he replied: I have no idea about the timetable for the Israeli withdrawal. It is a question of coordination among the parties concerned. In response to a question about the size of the UN forces and whether they will be sufficient to control the situation in the south, the ambassador said: I believe that the senior army officials think that the strength of these forces is sufficient. Ambassador Parker concluded by asserting that U.S. diplomacy is now dealing with the situation related to the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the south and the implementation of the cease-fire so that the UN Security Council resolution will succeed.

Minister Butrus then met with Saudi Ambassador Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, who said after the meeting that he and Minister Butrus had discussed the results of his recent discussions with the Palestinian officials. He added: I also briefed his excellency on what I discussed with Yasir 'Arafat this morning. Efforts continue to be exerted. We ask God to grant us success. The Saudi ambassador went on to say: I also informed the foreign minister that I will present \$9 million to the Arab deterrent forces commander, representing the second installment of our payment. In other words, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has paid all its share and discharged its obligations up to the end of April 1978.

Asked if Saudi Arabia supports the proposal for stationing UN peace-keeping forces all along the line manned by the Arab deterrent forces so that they may gradually participate with the deterrent forces in the task of maintaining security, Ambassador ash-Sha'ir said: I said yesterday that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in accordance with the decision adopted by its cabinet the day before yesterday, supports fraternal Lebanon and denounces the Israeli aggression and will do everything in its power to bring about a rapid Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territory. Ambassador ash-Sha'ir said that he had given the Lebanese foreign minister a letter from his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. However, he declined to reveal the contents of the letter.

Butrus Comments

NC221402Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today answered questions about his meetings with the U.S. and Saudi ambassadors. Asked about the nature of the two meetings, Minister Butrus said: The discussions during the meetings dealt with subjects you are aware of and with measures that can contribute to implementing the UN Security Council resolution, clearing the atmosphere in a manner that will protect Lebanon's interests, prevent more refugees from moving out of the south and insure the restoration of the state's authority over the south.

Asked about the important contacts taking place to implement the UN Security Council resolution, Minister Butrus said: During the current phase, the contacts deal with the executive measures to insure the implementation of the resolution, and they deal with overcoming everything that obstructs its implementation or conflicts with Lebanon's sovereignty, its right to its territory and its right to determine its own affairs.

He said that a cease-fire must take place, and that any delay will harm Lebanon's interests. In response to a question on Lebanon's position regarding King Husayn's call for a summit conference, he replied: Personally, I am in favor of a summit conference, especially because Lebanon has more than one issue to raise. However, I doubt that there is a practical opportunity for convening a summit conference or that such a conference will achieve satisfactory results if it is held in the present circumstances of which you are aware.

Asked about the Israeli conditions for withdrawing from the south and the stationing of UN peace-keeping forces, Minister Butrus said: What you call conditions are in fact viewpoints. We have expressed our viewpoint. What is important is that all concerned feel that the matter cannot tolerate procrastination, delay or irresponsible action.

Saudi Ambassador Comments

JN221308Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 March--Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, Saudi ambassador to Lebanon, has disclosed that he is holding contacts with the Palestinian resistance to freeze their operations against the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon. He said that he met this morning with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive committee, for this purpose.

Ash-Sha'ir, who was speaking after his meeting with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, said that he conveyed the Palestinian stand to Mr Butrus. He said that the Palestinians are showing great flexibility in cooperating with Lebanon so as to achieve a withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon. He also said that he conveyed a message from Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal to the Lebanese minister.

Further Report

NC221344Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir this morning met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and asked him to order Palestinian gunmen to stop fighting and withdraw. The Saudi ambassador later met with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus at the Foreign Ministry to pass on the Palestinian answer, which in effect is that 'Arafat has asked for time in order to hold consultations with various Palestinian commands on the pretext of adopting a unified decision. It was reported that the Saudi ambassador will meet again with 'Arafat in order to expedite a Palestinian decision.

CABINET TO HOLD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION 23 MARCH

NC230816Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The cabinet will hold an extraordinary session this evening under the chairmanship of President Ilyas Sarkis. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss announced today that the discussion at this meeting will focus on the political, security, social and humanitarian aspects of the present situation.

EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT UN RESOLUTION CONTINUE

NC221224Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese authorities today continued to devote their efforts to dealing with the general situation in the country and to following up the steps taken to implement the UN Security Council resolution which provides for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, replacement of these forces with UN forces and establishment of Lebanese authority throughout Lebanon. President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting with Arab deterrent forces commander Lt Col Sami al-Khatib this morning within the framework of these efforts.

President Sarkis later received an oral message from Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The message was conveyed to the president by the Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, Mohamed Yazid. After the meeting Yazid said: My meeting with President Sarkis was normal. The meeting took place within the framework of the agreement reached between Presidents Sarkis and Boumediene to keep in constant touch, exchange views and assess the current situation.

Advance Party Enters South

NC221715Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The advance party of the UN forces entered the south this evening. It consists of 52 French, Swedish and Iranian officers and men. The advance party of Iranian forces has crossed the border and taken up position of Al-Qa'qiyah bridge on the Litani River.

Forces Arrive in South

NC230509Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Vanguards of UN forces have begun to arrive in the south to take up positions in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution now that the parties concerned are abiding by the cease-fire. A French military unit of some 200 officers and men arrived at Beirut airport at 0500 today. This unit, which is part of the French contingent of 600 men, will join the UN forces in southern Lebanon. An Iranian unit of some 150 troops belonging to the UN forces which entered the south yesterday afternoon has taken up position on the southern bank of the Litani River. Meanwhile, Sweden agreed yesterday to transfer some 245 of its troops in Sinai to the peace-keeping force in the south.

Al-Huss Comments

NC230718Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 0450 today a French plane landed at Beirut International Airport carrying some 200 members of the French units which will be participating with the UN peace-keeping forces in southern Lebanon. The French units are the first units which have been assigned to UN peace-keeping duties by a state that is a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

In a statement to a morning journal, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss welcomed the UN forces which have come to Lebanon to help implement the UN Security Council resolution stipulating the withdrawal of the aggressor Israeli forces and facilitating the return of legitimate Lebanese authority.

This will lead to the return of the southern refugees to their villages and homes and bring stability to southern Lebanon.

Al-Huss added: It is the hope of all of us that with the help of the UN forces, we will be able to achieve all this. On this occasion we thank the United Nations represented by its secretary general and all the states which are participating in the UN forces for their initiative in extending a helping hand to Lebanon in its ordeal.

Norway, Austria To Contribute

NC230807Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Following an extraordinary meeting yesterday, the Norwegian Government has decided to send 700 troops to participate in the UN peace-keeping force.

Prime Minister Odvar Nordli said that at least 10 officers will go to southern Lebanon via Beirut on Saturday. He said that about 40 others will join them on Monday. He affirmed that the entire unit will be in Lebanon by the end of next week. However, he added, the participation of the Norwegians in the UN peace-keeping forces is conditional on the stipulation that they will not participate in any battles. He said they will be equipped with weapons for self-defense only.

Meanwhile, the Austrian Government has agreed in principle to participate in the UN forces but on the condition that the shooting stops in southern Lebanon and all sides agree to a UN presence there.

SOUTHERN LEBANESE REFUGEES BEGIN RETURNING HOME

NC230817Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Southern Lebanese refugees began returning to their villages in southern Lebanon after clashes had ceased in the area. Intensive contacts are taking place with the various parties to facilitate the return of the refugees and remove obstacles which some factions began to raise to prevent the return of these refugees.

PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY SENT TO TYRE, AN-NABATIYAH

NC221328Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] It was reported a short time ago from the south that Palestinian vehicles were seen transporting gunmen across Al-Qasimiyah Bridge toward Tyre. Other vehicles were seen going to An-Nabatiyah.

Yesterday Yasir 'Arafat was standing on Al-Qasimiyah Bridge in order to prevent Palestinian families from leaving the south for Sidon while some organizations were allowing the passage of Lebanese evacuees.

Further Report

NC221839Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] According to reports received from the south this evening, 36 Iranian officers entered Marj 'Uyun at noon today preparatory to the arrival of 400 Iranian soldiers, the first group of which is expected to arrive [words indistinct] aboard a plane which will bring aid to southern refugees of the Shi'ite community.

Reports from the south also say that Palestinian trucks were seen transporting armed men on [words indistinct] in the direction of the Tyre at noon today. Other trucks were seen heading toward An-Nabatiyah.

TRANSPORT OF WEAPONS TO SOUTH REPORTED

NC210711Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 21 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Between 0100 and 0500 today, 60 [unidentified] trucks carrying equipment and ammunition passed through the western Al-Biq'a area heading in the direction of Mashgharah and Jabal ar-Rihani.

It has been disclosed that an Iraqi warplane asked to land at Beirut International Airport last Friday. The Lebanese authorities refused to permit the aircraft to land because its pilot refused to disclose what the plane was transporting.

AFP DIRECTOR EXPELLED FOR 'DETRIMENTAL' ARTICLES

NC221302Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 22 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The director general of public security has issued a decision expelling the regional director of AFP from Lebanon as persona non grata. It has been learned that the AFP regional director in Lebanon had written articles and dispatches detrimental to the situation in Lebanon.

FRG ECONOMIC DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS IN BEIRUT

LD221418Y Hamburg DPA in German 1236 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut--An economic delegation from the Federal Republic held initial talks in Beirut on Wednesday regarding participation in Lebanese reconstruction projects, including the removal of damage caused by the civil war to public supply services, to the Beirut harbor to transport and private industry.

During the 3-day stay in the Lebanese capital the delegation will have meetings with, among others, Finance Minister Farid Rufayil, representatives of the Lebanese Banks Association and the Beirut Chamber of Industry and Commerce. The delegation, which includes representatives of the Federal Economy Ministry, the Federation of German Industry and the West German Bank Institute, will also be received by Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

CONFERENCE SUPPORTING PALESTINIANS TO MEET IN DAMASCUS

JN230520Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the Ba'th Party, the world conference in support of the Palestinian people will hold its meetings in Damascus on 30 March. Fifty-five organizations representing national parties, peasant organizations, and agricultural workers in fraternal and friendly foreign countries will attend the conference.

During the meetings, speeches will be delivered by the peasants general union in Syria, the general union of Palestinian peasants, and the PLO.

AL-AHMAR DISCUSSES MIDEAST WITH HUNGARIAN LEADERS

JN221402Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 22 March--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received at 1300 today the delegation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] led by Comrade Jenő Fock, member of the MSZMP Politburo. The meeting was attended by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member and chairman of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the National Command, and the ambassador of the Hungarian People's Republic in Damascus.

After welcoming the chairman and members of the delegation, Comrade al-Ahmar exchanged views with them on the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the MSZMP and the means to strengthen these relations in the interests of the struggle of the parties and peoples of the two countries. They also discussed enhancing the multifaceted cooperation between the two friendly countries in order to achieve further success and victories on all levels for the progress and prosperity of the two countries as well as their steadfastness in coping with the imperialist and Zionist designs.

During the meeting they reviewed the current situation in the Arab area, particularly in the aftermath of the premeditated Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon and the continuation of the Israeli expansionist and aggressive policy aimed at occupying more Arab land and annihilating the Palestinian and Lebanese Arab peoples.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained that Israel bears the responsibility for its aggression and must withdraw immediately from southern Lebanon. He also explained that the Arab nation will not give in to the aggressors and that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Syrian Arab Republic, through the secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the president of the republic, have declared their support for the Palestinian Arab people and Lebanon against the aggression. They have also declared that our struggle in Syria is continuing so as to confront the Zionist and imperialist designs aimed at destroying our nation and liquidating the Palestinian issue as well as at fighting imperialist and Zionist domination over our Arab area.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained that Syria is making persistent efforts to achieve a just peace based on full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab area and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to return home, to self-determination and to establish their independent state. Comrade al-Ahmar stressed that Syria will continue to confront the Zionist-imperialist-As-Sadat-liquidationist and capitulatory designs.

Comrade al-Ahmar thanked the Hungarian friends and the friends from the socialist countries for their constant support and assistance to the just Arab struggle against aggression and occupation.

The chairman of the Hungarian delegation affirmed that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved except through the liberation of all the occupied Arab areas and the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state. He also expressed the understanding of his party and country for the just struggle being waged by the Arab nation against Zionism and imperialism. He denounced the aggressive attack unleashed by Israel against southern Lebanon and described it as an attack exposing Israel's expansionist nature. He affirmed his country's continued support of the Arab people as well as its appreciation of Syria's role under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party and President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the imperialist and Zionist designs. He also affirmed the significance of cooperation between the two countries and peoples and the continued development of this cooperation in the interests of the peoples of both countries and their joint struggle.

TISHRIN SAYS ISRAEL WANTS UN FORCES FOR PROTECTION

JN230722Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting in the column "Behind the News," under the headline "Israel Wants The United Nations To Be Its Tool." TISHRIN today says:

The Security Council resolution on the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon was issued to deal with a grave emergency situation arising from Israel's aggression against the territories of an independent state which is a member of the United Nations, the occupation of part of the territory of this state, perpetration of war crimes and the attempt to commit genocide against the Palestinian Arab people.

It is clear from the contents and text of the resolution and from the debate of the members of the council that the fundamental and urgent duty is the withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from all the occupied Lebanese territories. This is what the international community and everyone of sound thinking who respects the UN Charter and international law understand. But the Israeli rulers think otherwise. They want the UN forces to be deployed before their forward lines in the Lebanese territories to protect these invading forces so that they may turn into a tool of repression against the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese who reject occupation.

TISHRIN adds: Hence Israel's attempt to push the United Nations into accepting a cease-fire line extending along the Litani River course and into accepting protection of the invasion forces within the territories they have occupied in Lebanon. Israeli Defense Minister Weizman said the UN forces should prevent the organizations which threaten Israel from being stationed anywhere in Lebanon. The acceptance of such a task will cast doubt on the United Nations and will expose it to danger. The duty of the United Nations and its forces is not to protect the aggressors or to grant any kind of legitimacy to foreign occupation under the guise of cease-fire lines and the guarantee that saboteurs do not return. Under no circumstances will the continued stay of any Israeli soldier within Lebanese territory be accepted. It is likewise impermissible to give the aggressor forces any comfort or the possibility of staying in the territories they have occupied and which they have perpetrated brutal crimes.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The aggressors must withdraw immediately from all the occupied Lebanese territories. They have absolutely no right to dictate conditions or to turn the cease-fire into protection from the fighting from which they have begun groaning or protection from the political scandal they are suffering from in the world.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE CABLES PLO'S 'ARAFAT

ID221244Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Mar 78 pp 1, 5 LD

[Text] President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution, has sent a cable to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The following is the text:

The large-scale invasion operation and the blatant aggression which the Zionist enemy forces are carrying out against sisterly Lebanon in a desperate attempt to crush the struggle of your struggling people represent a new stage in the Israeli policy of domination, occupation, expansion and grabbing Arab land. It is a continuation of the policy of repeated attacks and aggressive wars against the Palestinian people and other brotherly peoples.

This new aggressive operation once again confirms that Zionism finds the existence of the Palestinian people and their continued resistance an obstacle to the achievement of the plans aimed at reaching a solution to the Middle East problem that would agree with Zionism's expansionist ambitions and would insure for it domination and control of the destinies of the Arab homeland. Therefore, Zionism has made the liquidation of the Palestinian problem and the extermination of the Palestinian people an immediate objective, for whose achievement it resorts to all means. But the Zionist enemy is facing a people who have resolved to wrest their rights and defend their entity and freedom regardless of the cost.

The Palestinian resistance, which is in harmony with the general trend of history and agrees with the national liberation movement in Africa and the Third World, is expressing the determination of the whole nation to restore its rights and preserve its dignity. The resistance realizes the deep significance of the battle it is fighting against Zionism and imperialism and enjoys the support of all the justice-loving and freedom-loving peoples in the world.

The Zionist aggression against the Palestinian resistance and Lebanon is aggression against all the Arab nation. It calls upon this nation to step up its struggle against Israel and to unify its efforts for the liberation of the Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights and to effectively oppose the conspiracies which are being hatched today against the safety of the Arab nation.

The current events have once again proved that no right and just solution can be found for the Middle East problem without recognizing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the participation of the PLO as their sole legitimate representative which speaks on their behalf and expresses their aspirations and hopes.

Algeria, loyal to the traditions of its struggle, out of brotherly duty and solidarity and on the basis of its options and commitments, stands on the side of the Palestinian revolution in the heroic struggle which it is waging against the unjust Zionist aggression in defense of its just cause and of the honor of the entire Arab nation.

BOUMEDIENE SENDS MESSAGE TO LEBANESE PRESIDENT

LD230004Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Taking into account the tragic situation prevailing in southern Lebanon, President Houari Boumediene has sent a message to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis.

FOOD SUPPLIES, ARMS, MEDICAL AID SENT TO LEBANON

LD221936Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Beirut--A first delivery of medical and surgical supplies from Algeria has arrived in Beirut. This will be put at the disposal of the Lebanese minister of health and the Lebanese Red Crescent. Algeria is also to supply food and products of first necessity to the victims of Israeli aggression in Lebanon. This was announced by Mohamed Yazid, Algerian ambassador to Lebanon. He also said:

"Algeria has never stopped giving military assistance to the Palestinian resistance. In the context of the decisions of the summits in Tripoli and Algiers we recently delivered a large quantity of arms and ammunition to the Palestinian fighters. These arms are used efficiently and heroically by the Palestinian forces who are fighting the Israeli aggressor in southern Lebanon."

YUGOSLAV DEFENSE SECRETARY ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD201352Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Army Gen Nikola Ljubovic, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium and federal secretary for national defense of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, arrives in Algiers today on an official friendship visit to Algeria at the invitation of the minister of national defense.

Algeria's welcome to Nikola Ljubovic will be characterized by the (?solidarity) and faithful friendship which permeates Algerian-Yugoslav relations. Algeria has always had the best possible relations with Yugoslavia, which under the leadership of President Tito has developed a consistent policy based on the defense of the principles of national independence and nonalignment.

Visits Military Installations

LD212236Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1608 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, March 21 (TANJUG)--Federal Secretary for National Defense Nikola Ljubovic visited the Air Force Academy and Mers El Kebir Naval Base in Oran today, the second day of his official visit to Algeria.

Received by Boumediene

LD230038Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Boumediene received Nikola Ljubovic, defense secretary of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, today. The audience took place in the presence of Abdulhamid Latreche, secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense, and the Yugoslav ambassador to Algiers. This morning Ljubovic visited the military academy of Cherchel.

Meets With Defense Official

LD230040Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Abdulhamid Latreche, secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense, this afternoon received Gen Nikola Ljubicic, Yugoslav defense secretary. Colonel Latreche gave a dinner in honor of the Yugoslav guest.

LIBYA

FIRST GROUP LEAVES TO FIGHT IN SOUTH LEBANON

LD221422Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A JANA correspondent has learned that the first group of volunteers--Libyans, Arab brethren and Moslems residing in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah who had registered their names--left the Jamahiriyah yesterday on their way to the battlefield in southern Lebanon to join their brother Palestinians and Lebanese progressive nationalists in their fierce battles against the racist Zionist enemy. The correspondent has learned that this group of volunteers totals 200 men.

In addition, a central committee has been set up in the Jamahiriyah to collect contributions for the Palestinians and the Lebanese who are facing the Zionist aggression in southern Lebanon. The committee will be under the supervision of the competent offices of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, the unions, and the popular associations. Moreover, subcommittees on the level of municipalities in the Jamahiriyah have been formed to collect all kinds of contributions, including blood donations, and to register volunteers.

These steps fall within the framework of Libya's actions on the Arab and international level to support the Palestinian and Lebanese brothers in southern Lebanon, and they are in accordance with the recommendations of the participants in the popular march which was organized in Tripoli on 19 March in support of the steadfastness of the joint Lebanese-Palestinian national front in repelling the Zionist enemy.

AL-QADHDHAFI: LIBYA PREPARING AFRICAN SUMMIT

LD221448Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] In an expanded interview with AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress, has stated that Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre has agreed to withdraw his forces from the Ogaden Region, which is disputed by Somalia and Ethiopia.

The colonel said that the Somali president has agreed to this within the framework of proposals for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between those two countries. The Libyan leader said that he held closed meetings with the Somali president for 2 days, during which an understanding was reached on a plan for joint action in the Horn of Africa.

Chairman al-Qadhdhafi told an AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM delegation that contacts are currently taking place in order to convene an urgent African summit conference to discuss the situation in the Horn of Africa with a view to taking the region out of the sphere of international conflict, so that a solution that insures the interests of all parties concerned can be reached.

In the meantime, preparations are underway in the Libyan capital to prepare the ground for such a meeting in the near future. This is being done in coordination with Sudan.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM will publish shortly the text of the important interview with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi that lasted for 2 and a half hours.

SUDAN

AMBASSADOR PRESENTS MESSAGE TO NUMAYRI FROM TITO

LD181922Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, this morning received a message from President Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia dealing with the situation in the Horn of Africa and Yugoslavia's desire to see concerted efforts to preserve peace in this part of the world through dialog instead of conflict.

The message was delivered to Mr Milos Minic, the Yugoslav deputy premier and foreign minister, when he met the president of the republic this morning at his office in the people's palace in the presence of Mr ar-Rashid at-Tahir, the vice president of the republic and foreign minister.

The Yugoslav official briefed the president on the results of President Tito's visit to the United States and Britain.

The president reviewed with the Yugoslav deputy premier and foreign minister the situation in the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and the African Continent. He also discussed with him the preparations under way to convene a conference of foreign ministers of nonaligned states and the coordination bureau.

Ar-Rashid at-Tahir and Minic held a round of talks this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry on bilateral relations between the two countries. The two ministers expressed their satisfaction over the progress and development of relations, touching on the grave developments in southern Lebanon and the stands of the two countries on the Ogaden issue and Eritrea and [word indistinct] the extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament and the current preparations for the convening of a conference of the nonaligned states.

TUNISIA

MEDICAL SUPPLIES SENT TO PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT

LD211746Y Tunis TAP in French 1500 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] TAP, Tunis--The Tunisian Red Crescent has sent a quantity of medical supplies, especially anesthetics, blood plasma and surgical material, to the Palestinian Red Crescent. This operation was decided upon by the Tunisian Government to help the victims of the Israeli invasion in southern Lebanon.

UN UNIT IN POSITION; IDF PULLBACK EXPECTED SOON

TA230800Y Jerusalem POST in English 23 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Excerpts] Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon is "a matter of weeks," reliable sources in Jerusalem said last night. The pullback, the sources said, is conditional on the deployment of the newly established UN peace-keeping force--some of whose contingents have arrived--but which will not be complete for another two weeks.

The source was speaking a few hours after the new UN force established its "forward headquarters at An-Naqurah, just across the Lebanese border from Rosh Haniqra. This came as a first contingent of UN men passed through Israel to take up position on the Litani River.

Israel announced yesterday that it is ready to arrange for the immediate return of the south Lebanon refugees to their homes. The message was delivered at a meeting between IDF and senior Lebanese Army officers, which took place as the first UN forces set out for south Lebanon to take up positions on the Litani River.

The meeting, which was called by Israel, came a day after Israel called on those villagers who had fled north--estimated at 40,000 to 60,000--to return to their homes. (Reports from Beirut have put the number at 100,000 to 180,000).

As of yesterday only a few of the refugees had heeded the Israeli call.

The Israel side told the two Lebanese officers that Israel will aid in transporting the refugees back to their homes.

The Lebanese said they would inform their government of the offer and bring back an early answer.

The cabinet yesterday held a three-hour debate on the situation in south Lebanon. No details were divulged, since the government met as a (secret) ministerial security committee. The session was chaired by acting Premier Yigael Yadin. Informed sources said the cabinet discussed a report from Defence Minister Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur on south Lebanon. The cabinet also heard a report from Yadin on Prime Minister Menahem Begin's talks in Washington.

A cabinet source said there had been no dissent among the ministers over the military action in Lebanon. The questioning voiced the day before in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee by some coalition members had not been repeated or reflected at the cabinet table, the source said.

"Those who criticized the action simply did not understand what was going on," the source said. All the ministers, however, understood fully--and therefore approved the action.

Earlier in the day, Weizman had conferred with the chief coordinator of UN peace-keeping missions in the Middle East, Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, who has been shuttling between Israel and Lebanon in connection with consolidating the ceasefire in Lebanon and the deployment of UN troops.

About 100 Iranian soldiers moved yesterday from the Golan buffer zone to south Lebanon to prepare the ground for the deployment of the newly established 4,000-strong UNIFIL--United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The blue-capped troops crossed the Israeli-Lebanese border through Metualla and Al-Qulay'ah--after being delayed for several hours by local Lebanese Christians who oppose a UN takeover from Israeli troops.

Christian Commander Major Haddad was persuaded to allow the Iranians through on their way to the Litani by Defence Minister Weizman, who told him by telephone that the UN had accepted Israel's conditions and would keep terrorists from crossing the river. (Under the arrangement the Iranians will guard the Hardala and Akiya bridges over the river, while a French UN force will watch the Kassmiye bridge and will take up position in Tyre.)

Once through the Christian enclave, the Iranians were cheered by Moslem villagers, who told newsmen that they have been persecuted by Christian militias ever since Israel forces swept southern Lebanon last week in a massive operation which uprooted PLO terrorists from the region.

GUR COMMENTS ON LEBANON SITUATION, IDF WITHDRAWAL

TA230743Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Mar 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] This is the second day of the cease-fire in southern Lebanon and the IDF is waiting for the United Nations and its units, which will replace it in the area. Our correspondent, Roni Dan'el, spoke with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhai Gur about the army's tasks during these transition days. [begin recording]

[Gur] The first force... [interrupted by loud noises] for the moment, our main effort is to return the civilians' lives to normal, that is, to bring food and water and to treat the injured, and if there are any other clashes with terrorists in the area, of course, to deal with them and to organize ourselves. Now, how long we stay here is mainly dependent on the UN units. If the United Nations gets organized more quickly, I imagine that the whole process will be more speedy. The quicker the UN force arrives and takes up positions in coordination with us, the quicker we will evacuate.

[Question] Under the conditions you have laid down.

[Answer] They are not conditions. We do not dictate conditions. We are in contact with the United Nations. The State of Israel is not a country that dictates conditions. We are coordinating with the United Nations. For the present the coordination is perfectly fine, and I have, for the moment, no reason to assume that the great majority of what appears to us to be necessary for the establishment of foundations which will in the future prevent terrorist activity will not be able to be actualized. Thus, I suggest that we do not speak about conditions or about intransigence but about negotiations and coordination of the work between us and the United Nations and try to reach the maximum of efficient and good deployment. In my view, this can certainly be done.

[Question] The last few days of calm--how are the terrorists reacting? Are they reinforcing, are they trying to strengthen their line in the Tyre area?

[Answer] We have no proof of any change in the terrorist deployment in the sector where we are stationed. I imagine that as soon as it is clear to them that we are stopping movement they will try to reorganize. I cannot say that we have clear indications, although we have observation points looking out over all of the Tyre enclave and we see movement of vehicles and of people, but I would say that here there is more of a professional evaluation, that they will reorganize or rehabilitate the units which were hit and I imagine that they will try to resume some sort of activity, unless they make a decision to abide by the UN resolutions.

[Question] Lieutenant General Gur, you mentioned that the IDF's main effort now is to help the civilian population of southern Lebanon. Can you detail what you intend to do, what is being done now?

[Answer] Yes, I can detail what is already being done. We have, for example, [word indistinct] a hospital in Tibnin. We are distributing food. We have already treated the injured and we intend to get to all the villages that were hit, to complete this job during the first stage. If the process continues, I imagine that we will extend this treatment more and more, including dealing with buildings and with roads in places that were hit. [end recording]

IDF THWARTS TERRORISTS' ATTEMPT TO REINFILTRATE NEAR TYRE

TA222019Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] IDF forces seized a number of terrorists east of Tyre at noon. Our correspondent Menashe Raz reports that the terrorists attempted to infiltrate into the area controlled by our forces under cover of a convoy of returning residents. The terrorists were taken for interrogation.

On southern Lebanese roads today, dozens of cars could be seen returning residents to their villages. They said that except for the difficulties to which they are subjected by the terrorists, no one is preventing them from returning to their homes.

IDF MAINTAINS CEASE-FIRE DESPITE ROCKETS, SHELLING

Katyushas Hit Galilee

TA221738Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] More reports arrive from the north. Our correspondent in the north, Eli'ezer Peney-Gil reports that a few minutes ago several Katyusha rockets landed on the area of the Galilee finger. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. In accordance with the cease-fire order, our forces did not fire back at the sources of the fire.

Marj 'Uyun Shelled

TA222031Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The township of Marj 'Uyun in southern Lebanon was heavily shelled tonight. Our military correspondent Roni Dani'el reports that the IDF artillery did not return fire. He reports, that in the Christian villages of southern Lebanon a gloomy atmosphere prevails, and that the villagers regard Israel's consent to leave the area as a kind of betrayal of their interests.

WEST BANK BUSES TO GET ARMED ESCORT FOLLOWING INCIDENT

TA222022Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpt] As of tomorrow, security forces will provide armed escorts for Dan buses transporting workers from the territories to Israel. That decision was made in the wake of the burning of a Dan bus this morning at the village of Dayr Abu Mash'al near Ramallah. A Dan bus driver was murdered near that village about 2 months ago.

KHAN YUNUS MAYOR, NOTABLES CONDEMN GAZA RIOTS

TA221449Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The Khan Yunus mayor and 40 notables from the Gaza region condemned the riots that took place in the town recently. Quiet prevailed in Khan Yunus today and studies proceeded normally.

F-15, Kfir GIVEN HIGH EFFICIENCY RATINGS BY IDF

TA221754Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The participation of F-15 and Kfir aircraft in the IDF operation in southern Lebanon was in fact the world premiere for these two aircraft in actual combat conditions. This is reported in the [IDF's] BAMAHA weekly magazine. The item says that the F-15 became operational in the United States over 3 years ago, and in Israel 2 years later. However, until the IDF operation last week, it had not taken part in any actual combat operation. The F-15 served during the battles in southern Lebanon as an airborne radar system.

For the Kfir aircraft, too, it was a baptism of fire. One Kfir pilot who participated in the battle praised the aircraft and said all its systems proved to be efficient.

ALINEMENT, DMC CRITICIZE IDF OPERATION, INFORMATION GAP

TA221557Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Mar 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Avner Tavori]

[Text] There was criticism of the broadening of the IDF operation in Lebanon to beyond the "security belt" of 10 km at yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, following the briefing by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

The critics claimed that the broadening of the scope of the operation had created a problem of tens of thousands of refugees and made Israel's international position more difficult.

During the session there was a sharp confrontation between MK Amnon Rubinstein and his colleague in the faction, Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin.

Rubinstein very sharply attacked the broadening of the IDF operation in Lebanon to beyond the security strip. In reply, Yadin quoted remarks made by Rubinstein at last Sunday's committee meeting, when the options to the operation in Lebanon were discussed.

Yadin said that, from what Rubinstein had said at that session, it appeared that the action in Lebanon decided on by the cabinet fit in with his views.

Rubinstein replied: "This is not so and there is no contradiction here." The atmosphere during the argument was most tense.

MK's Me'ir Talmi (MAPAM), Yosi Sarid (Alinement), Shemu'el Toledano and 'Aqiva Nof (DMC) joined in the argument on the side of Rubinstein.

Yosi Sarid said: "Why was the committee not informed last Wednesday, even with a hint, that a problem was being created of tens of thousands of refugees whose homes had been destroyed."

The chairman of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, attacked the cabinet for making statements and afterward not finding a way out of them. "It would be better to run the operation like a wolf in sheep's clothing than like a sheep in wolf's clothing."

Yehuda Ben-Me'ir (MAFDAL) also criticized the fact that the committee had been told that the IDF had halted the operation at a depth of 10 km and the operation was over and that afterward it emerged that the operation was continuing on an increasingly broadening scope and that no report of this had been given to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Many members demanded that the committee be brought into what was going on and expressed their dissatisfaction over the fact that the information reaching the committee was out of date.

MK Abba Eban (Alignment) referred to the matter of the UN force in Lebanon. He said that a settlement based on a UN presence was not to be sneered at or rejected. "We have agreed to this in the past and it should not be opposed today"--he said. "The problem," he said, "is not what is happening in southern Lebanon. The problem is an unprecedented ebb in our relations with the United States and the erosion in the support we are receiving there from traditional friends and even from the Jews."

PERES REMARKS ON POLITICAL, MILITARY SITUATION

TA221330Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, said today that there are no differences of opinion among the people regarding the need for the IDF operation in southern Lebanon. The people should stand united behind every action beyond the border when youths risk their lives, and should be convinced that this risk will not become a political football among the parties in the country. Mr Peres is, however, concerned over what is going to happen in southern Lebanon, since the UN force is not an operational military force and the terrorists do not respect any agreement. The chairman of the Labor Party was addressing the technion students. In reply to a question he said that in his opinion the Likud government had committed a mistake by entering into a confrontation with the U.S. Government over the interpretation of Resolution 242 with regard to Judaea and Samaria.

YADIN PROTESTS TO ARENS ABOUT KNESSET COMMITTEE LEAKS

TA221704Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] This morning acting Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin sent a letter to the chairman of the [Knesset] Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Prof Moshe Arens, protesting the leakage of confidential details that were given yesterday by the defense minister and by Yadin himself.

We gladly agreed to comply with the committee's request to be updated on what is taking place in southern Lebanon, recognizing the need to incorporate it in the discussions on such important issues, the acting prime minister wrote.

Yadin clarified that the leaks make close contacts between the government and the committee difficult.

Arens refused to comment on the letter to our Knesset correspondent, Moshe Hakohen, and expressed surprise that it was made public. I thought it was addressed to me and not to the newspapers, Arens said, and added that he will release his reaction after he sends his response to the acting prime minister.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT COMMENTS ON BEGIN-CARTER TALKS

TA221633Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Mar 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[Erol Guiney commentary]

[Text] All the observers predicted that Prime Minister Menahem Begin would have difficult talks at the White House. But the impression has been gained that in reality these talks have been even more difficult than was expected.

The reception was cool. President Carter's speech was full of hints about Israel's strength and the U.S. commitment to Israel's security--two factors intended to push Israel into making "historic decisions."

Mr Begin's request for a renewal of the understanding achieved in his previous meetings with President Carter and President as-Sadat sounded as though it fell on deaf ears.

In President Carter's position not only is a contradiction exposed between the policies of the United States and Israel, but also a sort of personal insult. Justifiably or not, President Carter felt that he had been led astray in his previous meetings with Begin; that promises had been given to him which had not been kept; and that Begin was not taking into account at all the prestige of the President and the vital interests of the United States. It may be that this feeling was more unjustified than justified, but all the signs indicate that it exists.

The tragedy which took place on the coastal road also did not weaken the aggressiveness of this U.S. position. It may be that the administration understood that this incident demanded a reaction, but it was under no circumstances prepared to support an operation of such a size, an operation which has created a problem of thousands of new refugees.

It is clear that the Carter administration could not have permitted itself to take such a position had it not felt that, with regard to the most important questions of all--such as the settlements in Sinai and the West Bank and the interpretation of Resolution 242--U.S. public opinion is also taking a critical position on Begin's policy. This fact was also reflected in the discussions between the prime minister and members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is clear that Carter wants to concentrate the discussions with Begin on these vital questions and not on southern Lebanon, which is, after all, a question of secondary importance.

It may be said, therefore, that we have reached the "moment of truth" in U.S.-Israel relations. It is almost certain that this moment would have arrived even under the rule of any other Israeli cabinet, since the talks between the previous prime minister, Yizhaq Rabin, and President Carter were also fairly difficult.

However, what is to be regretted is that, because of mistakes which could have been avoided, this confrontation comes just now, when the support for Israel of the Congress and U.S. public opinion is at an ebb. In this situation the Carter administration feels that it is freer to express in words its negative position on certain aspects of Israeli policy.

SHAH: CRITICAL FOR U.S. TO ECONOMIZE ON OIL

LD191357Y Teheran PARS in English 1120 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY), 18 March--His imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr granted an interview to PANA and [words indistinct] and a delegation of pressmen before leaving Abadan Airport for Teheran today.

Asked if the recent OPEC session was mainly concerned with the fall in the dollar price and its effects on transactions of OPEC member countries, the shahanshah said that nothing had been officially stated by [word indistinct] side and it had not been estimated how much Iran would lose. But it was clear, the shahanshah stated, that a large amount of such dollars would be spent on American markets.

The part of the world which called itself the free world, his imperial majesty said, was suffering disorder in its economy and most of the oil produced was exported to that part of the world. The shahanshah stated that it was a critical calculation and Europe and the United States would make their positions clear. The United States imported so much oil that the price of dollar naturally fell and the United States should be the first country to observe oil economies, his imperial majesty said.

On whether the probable changes in the French cabinet would have any effect on relations between Iran and France, his imperial majesty said on the Iranian side it would not! Obviously the French national policy should have no effect on relations between the two countries, the shahanshah stated.

One of the reporters asked his imperial majesty to outline Iran's general policy on the recent purchase of a number of submarines and ships from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands. In response his imperial majesty said that the purchase of those submarines and ships had nothing to do with the Persian Gulf which was too narrow, but was for use in the Indian Ocean.

On results of the recent inspection tour of south Iran, the shahanshah stated that almost every development project for that part of Iran was the first of its kind in the world. It had been said that the Khuzestan sugar factory was the largest in the world and the Abadan refinery the largest of its kind. The Mahshahr petrochemical complex and a new project which would start operation within two years would be the largest petrochemical complex in the world, and that would be the profile of Khuzestan Province, the south of Iran, the shahanshah said.

TEHERAN: IRANIAN UN CONTINGENT MOVES TO S. LEBANON

LD221116Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] With the permission of the shah, 150 Iranian soldiers of the peace-keeping forces in the Golan Heights have been sent to southern Lebanon so that until the arrival of the UN peace force in this area, they can supervise the discontinuation of the Israeli attack and the withdrawal of its forces from southern Lebanon.

Our correspondent at the United Nations reported--quoting sources attached to this organization--that the immediate sending of Iranian peace forces to the war-stricken areas of south Lebanon has been met with pleasure and gratitude of the government and people of Lebanon.

IRAN TO AIRLIFT AID TO LEBANESE SHI'ITE REFUGEES

LD211715Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The following statement has been issued by the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society:

At the obeyed and blessed command of the shah, large quantities of blankets, clothing, foodstuffs and medicines have been made ready by the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society in aid of Shi'ite refugees from southern Lebanon who have become homeless as a result of recent incidents. Beginning on Thursday, 23 March the aid will be transported by the Imperial Air Force to Beirut and placed at the disposal of Shi'ite refugees. Aircraft of the Imperial Air Force have been placed at the disposal of the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society for this express purpose.

TEHERAN: 385 CONVICTS TO BE FREED 21 MARCH

LD181242Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Imperial Armed Forces' Justice Department, in a statement issued today, announced at the blessed and obeyed command of the shahanshah aryamehr, the supreme commander in chief, another 385 persons, 40 of whom have been convicted for taking steps against the country's security and the remainder for various other crimes, are to be released from prison in order to mark the birthday centenary of His Imperial Majesty Reza Shah the Great.

The blessed and obeyed imperial command has been communicated to the country's prisons for execution so that the convicts may be released on the Now-Ruz festival [21 March].

ECONOMY MINISTER YEGANEH ENDS VISIT TO FRG

LD191255Y Teheran PARS in English 1102 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY), 18 March--The Iranian minister of economics and financial affairs, Mohammad Yeganeh, ended his 4-day visit to the Federal Republic of Germany and returned to Teheran on Friday evening.

During his stay in Germany, Mr Yeganeh held talks with the chancellor, Helmut Schmidt; the economics minister, Otto Lambsdorff; Finance Minister Hans Matthofer, and the acting foreign minister, Mr Hermes. The talks focused mainly on the expansion of cooperation in the field of economy, energy, joint industrial and mineral projects, transfer of advanced technology to [word indistinct] vocational training export of Iranian goods to the EEC, and warehouses for nuclear stations.

Mr Yeganeh also attended a meeting of the owners of major industries in the Federal Republic of Germany and discussed Iran's economic policy and the possibilities of further expanding cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries. Mr Yeganeh also held talks with the board of directors of Krupp and discussed matters of mutual interest including joint ventures in other countries.

INDIA

EGYPTIAN SPECIAL ENVOY CALLS ON DESAI IN DELHI

BK201633Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The special envoy of President as-Sadat of Egypt, Dr Butrus Ghali, called on the prime minister in New Delhi today. They had talks for over half an hour. The external affairs minister was also present. Dr Ghali, who is also the minister of state for foreign affairs of his country, apprised Mr Desai and Mr Vajpayee about the recent developments in West Asia. The prime minister told the special envoy that peace in West Asia must be just and based on the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territory and on the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Later, talking to newsmen Dr Ghali said that Egypt needs the moral support of the non-aligned countries in its effort to bring peace in West Asia. He said the deep friendship between his country and India is important in this context.

DESAI REFUSES TO COMMENT ON BHUTTO DEATH SENTENCE

BK220947Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has declined to comment on the death sentence on the former prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Bhutto, by the Lahore high court. Talking to newsmen at Navsari near Surat in Gujarat yesterday, Mr Morarji Desai said that this is an internal matter of Pakistan, and since India is committed to noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, he will not make any comment.

DESAI COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY

BK230932Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister declared in the Lok Sabha today that India will not sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty even if it means closing down the Tarapore Atomic Powerstation. He announced amidst cheers that no one can pressurize India on this issue.

Mr Morarji Desai was replying to a calling-attention motion raised by Mr O.P. Tyagi, Janata, and four others on the reported decision of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to put off the release of enriched uranium for the Tarapore station. Mr Desai assured the house that the government will strain every nerve to see that the Tarapore station does not close in case the agreement with the U.S. Government is broken. He pointed out that so far the agreement is operating. The only question is of delay in the supply of enriched uranium for various reasons. The matter was taken up with the U.S. Government. It has been pointed out to the U.S. authorities that delays in supplies have already adversely affected the functioning of the nuclear fuel complex at Hyderabad and also resulted in the involuntary reduction in the output of power at Tarapore.

NUCLEAR ENERGY HEAVY WATER MANUFACTURE ATTEMPTED

BK220951Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister told the Lok Sabha today that India is trying to manufacture heavy water needed as fuel by the atomic powerplants. At the same time it is being imported from outside.

Answering a question, Mr Morarji Desai said that the government would first like to cope with the atomic powerplants already taken up before thinking of setting up new ones.

Giving details about the nuclear powerplants under construction at Narora near Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, Mr Desai said that the preliminary work on the setting up of the project has been completed and the construction of the main plant building has gathered momentum. The first phase of the plant is likely to become critical in December 1982 and the second in 1983.

BREZHNEV WRITELLET DESAI ON WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS

BK210353Y Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 78 p 1 BK

[Our special correspondent]

[Text] Soviet President L.I. Brezhnev has written a letter to Prime Minister Morarji Desai covering a wide range of subjects of mutual interest to both countries.

Stating this in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said the letter reviews with satisfaction the development of Indo-Soviet relations and reiterates the determination of the Soviet Union to further strengthen friendship between the two countries.

The letter also refers to topical international questions. Replying to a question introduced by Mr K.L. Gupta, Mr Vajpayee said that during his visit to the Soviet Union in October, 1977 Mr Desai extended an invitation to Mr Brezhnev and Mr A. Kosygin. This invitation was accepted by the Soviet leaders.

VAJPAYEE: KASHMIR ISSUE TO BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY

BK181306Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Mar 78 BK

[Text] India wants to settle the issue arising out of the Pakistani illegal occupation of a part of Kashmir peacefully and through bilateral negotiations according to the Simla Agreement. This was stated by the external affairs minister in the Rajya Sabha during question time yesterday.

Mr Vajpayee said that during his recent visit to Islamabad, the Kashmir question had figured in the talks he had with Pakistani leaders. Both sides have agreed that the issue should be settled in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

CONGRESS-I LEADERS ARRESTED IN LUCKNOW DEMONSTRATION

BK171615Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Congress-I leader, Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, and the former Karnataka governor, Mr Uma Shankar Dikshit, were among those arrested in Lucknow today after violent incidents outside the Council House. Mrs Mohisena Kidwai, president of the Uttar Pradesh Congress-I; Mr Narayan Dutt Tiwari and Mrs Rajendra Kumari Vajpayee were also arrested. The demonstration led by them on the sugarcane issue turned violent.

According to an official spokesman, the two jeeps in which some top Congress-I leaders including Mr Dikshit were sitting made an attempt to rush through the police cordon trampling down the policemen. The demonstrators did not follow the agreed route laid down by the police.

The spokesman said brickbats were thrown at the police and several persons including a subdivisional magistrate were injured. The police made a lathi [baton] charge and used tear gas shells to disperse the demonstrators. He denied that the police had opened fire to disperse the crowd or that any Congress-I leader was injured. According to SAMACHAR, nearly 400 demonstrators were arrested.

The matter was raised in the Lok Sabha today. Mr C.M. Stephen, Congress-I and some other Congress members asked the home minister to make a statement on the incident. Mr Charan Singh said he will make a statement on Monday after collecting information. Action will be taken against anybody who violates the law whether he is a Congress leader or a Janata leader, he added.

In the Rajya Sabha, Congress and Congress-I members staged a walkout in protest against the arrest of Mr Kamalapati Tripathi in Lucknow.

Leaders Released

BK181638Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Mar 78 BK

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh all the 800 Congress-I workers arrested in Lucknow yesterday while taking part in a demonstration were released today. They include Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, Mr Uma Shankar Dikshit, Mrs Mohsina Kidwai and Mr Narayn Dutt Tiwari.

The Chief Minister, Mr Ramnaresh Yadav, told the State Assembly that the Congress-I workers have been released to create a congenial atmosphere. Making a statement in the house, Mr Yadav said it has never been the intention of the Janata Government to suppress any peaceful and democratic demonstration to ventilate the grievances of the people.

VAJPAYEE: INDIA SEES ADVANTAGES TO ASIAN COMMON MARKET

BK171031Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister told the Rajya Sabha today that the improvement in bilateral relations among the Asian countries is essential to achieve regional cooperation and give a practical shape to the concept of an Asian common market.

Replying to questions, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee said discussion on the potential advantages of economic cooperation in this region took place in general terms with the shah of Iran during his visit to India. The shah made a reference to the Asian common market, and India agreed to cooperate in this effort. But Mr Vajpayee said he conveyed to the shah that he should talk with other countries of the region and prepare them to accept the concept.

Mr Vajpayee said that India can see the advantage of cooperation amongst the countries of the region and recognizes that progress will depend on agreements being reached between the countries concerned.

VAJPAYEE TRIP TO PRC NEEDS 'DUE, CAREFUL PREPARATION'

BK170956Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The visit of Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to China will take place at an appropriate time to be fixed through diplomatic channels after due and careful preparation. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Somarendra Kundra, in the Rajya Sabha today in reply to a question of Mr Gurudev Gupta, independent.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI RADIO REPORTS TIKKA KHAN'S ARREST

BK210716Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0530 GMT 21 Mar 78 BK

[Text] A press note issued in Lahore last night said that Retired General Tikka Khan visited various places of the Lahori Gate area in Lahore yesterday, and because he indulged in (?illegal) activities and tried to create a law and order situation, he was arrested for the violation of Martial Law Regulation No 33.

The press note said an unruly mob set three buses and three private cars on fire outside Lahori Gate yesterday. However, there was no other damage to life and property. The situation soon returned to normal and complete calm prevails in the city.

AGHA SHAHI EXPLAINS STAND ON KASHMIR DISPUTE

BK191010Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 19 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, has said Pakistan's stand on the United Nations Resolutions on Kashmir remains unchanged. He was commenting on the report statement of the Indian foreign minister, Mr Vajpayee, on the 15th of this month that the UN Resolutions on Kashmir have become outdated and the new assembly of the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the National Conference [ruling party in Jammu and Kashmir] had declared the territory to be a part of India.

In a statement in Karachi yesterday, Mr Agha Shahi declared that the right of self-determination enshrined in the resolutions did not lapse or become outdated merely because it has remained unenforced over a period of time, nor can any pronouncements by the occupied Kashmir Assembly or the National Conference affect these resolutions.

The adviser on foreign affairs pointed out that the Simla agreement provided for bilateral negotiations for the final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir. He said it was a matter of satisfaction that during his recent visit to Pakistan, the Indian foreign minister had reaffirmed that India was committed to honoring the Simla agreement in all its provisions including that relating to the final settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

Mr Agha Shahi said, in regard to the basis of a settlement, the Simla agreement safeguarded the recognized position of either side on the Kashmir dispute. Bilateral talks with India on a settlement of this dispute could not, therefore, in any way erode, much less amount to an abandonment of, Pakistan's stand on the UN Resolutions of 13 August 1948 and 5 January 1949. These resolutions called for demilitarization of Jammu and Kashmir State and a plebiscite to determine its future affiliation with Pakistan or India.

SRI LANKA

SED DELEGATION LED BY FELFE ARRIVES IN COLOMBO

LD211516Y East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1411 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Colombo--A delegation of the SED Central Committee headed by Politburo member Werner Felfe arrived in Colombo on Tuesday. It has been invited by the Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Communist Party to take part in the 10th Party Congress of the Sri Lanka Communist Party, which begins on Wednesday in the capital of the island state.

The guests were given a warm welcome at Colombo airport by Pieter Keuneman, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Communist Party, and other leading representatives of the Sri Lanka Fraternal Party.

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